



Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force Agenda Regular Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, February 10th, 2016 1:00 PM
Kewaunee County Administration Building
810 Lincoln Street - Kewaunee, WI 54216
Large Conference Room

- 1) Call To Order – Chairman Luft
 - 2) Roll Call – Secretary Bonness
 - 3) Approval/Repair of February 10th, 2016 Agenda
 - 4) Approval/Repair of January 6th, 2016 Meeting Minutes
 - 5) Discuss recent ground and surface water related events or issues.
- A) Update on NRCS Technical Advisory Group Meeting of January 28, 2016. (see attached agenda). Davina, Ron, Lee, John, Cindy, Nick, Aerica from the Groundwater Task Force were all in attendance. Key effort is to identify:
1. Environmental quality concerns
 2. Desired Future Conditions
 3. Key Indicators
 4. Target values, % of contaminated wells for example.

Then decide to:

- a) Accept existing conditions
- b) Adjust quality criteria
- c) Develop new criteria
- d) Some combination of the above

All NRCS recommendations need to keep in step with State and Federal Rules.

Example: Most waterways have a designated use and associated water quality standards that are to be preserved or attained. Also talked about acceptable levels of soil loss or “T” value.

- B) DNR established five work groups to address Kewaunee County’s ground and surface water problems at our August 5th meeting. Members discuss updates from the three active work groups since the January 6th, 2016 Groundwater Task Force meeting.
- a. Short Term Solutions to obtain clean water for citizens living with unsafe wells.
(Davina Bonness, Cindy Kinnard, John Pagel, Dick Swanson, and Ron Heuer are members of this workgroup).

Previous meeting, December 16, 2015: Workgroup discussed:

*Testing of ~300 Kewaunee County wells in areas with varying soil depths to bedrock e.g. 0 to 5 feet of soil, 5 to 20 feet of soil and more than 20 feet of soil, *Workgroup discussed finalizing the list of recommendations coming from the Short Term Solutions workgroup. Goal is to have a solid prioritized list of recommendations.

Note: Russ Rasmussen indicated at the January 28th NRCS TAG meeting that the Short Term Solutions workgroup has completed its work by preparing a list of prioritized recommendations.

- b. Best Management Practices for agriculture in dealing with Kewaunee County's vulnerable areas. (Davina Bonness is a member of this workgroup).

There were no updates regarding the Best Management Workgroup at our December 2nd or January 6th meetings as Davina Bonness was absent.

Russ Rasmussen indicated at the January 28th NRCS TAG meeting that the Best Management Practices Workgroup has not yet completed its work/recommendations. Mr. Rasmussen said there were potentially three more meeting dates scheduled for this group, February 10th, February 24th, and March 9th (March 9th meeting only if needed).

- c. Compliance and enforcement issues. (Davina Boness and Lee Luft are members of this group).

Previous meeting: December 15th: At this meeting the Compliance Workgroup voted on an extensive list of recommendations.

Some of the Consensus (unanimous) recommendations were as follows:

- Greater education/outreach for farmers, citizens, manure haulers, crop consultants, and landowners who rent lands for agricultural activities.
- Greater DNR review of Nutrient Management Plans to ensure all direct conduits to groundwater are mapped, confirm all that is to be utilized for land spreading is under contract, confirm no "overlapping" fields, e.g. fields being declared as available for manure application that are listed by multiple farms.
- More frequent DNR inspections of large and medium size farms, inspections after rains and snow, scheduled and unscheduled inspections.
- Fill current DNR warden vacancy
- Conduct more on site land application/hauling audits
- Develop a communication plan for all landowners who rent their lands regarding regulations and landowner agreements (2/3 majority voting in favor).

Note: Russ Rasmussen indicated at the January 28th NRCS TAG meeting that the Compliance Workgroup had completed its work by preparing a list of prioritized recommendations.

- d. Communication, getting accurate information to the public and information hub for all other group's recommendations.

Previous meeting: DNR's Russ Rasmussen advised that the Communications workgroup met for the first time in December, 2015. Next meeting date will be February 11, 2016.

- e. Alternative Technologies for waste treatment, disposal, and spreading.

Previous meeting: Russ Rasmussen indicated that this group would look at three major areas of agricultural technology:

1. Things being done successfully elsewhere.
2. New and promising technologies.
3. Asking the question; are we implementing new technologies in a timely and proper manner?

- C) Update of November 13th/14th and November 20th/21st Private Well Water Test results. How far along is the stratification analysis (well results by well depth)?

- D) Update on clean water access project in Algoma headed by Algoma Public Schools and Stonehouse Technologies of Milwaukee. Publish community instructions for use on the Groundwater Task Force website. - Nick Cochart
- E) Other issues for discussion?

6) Discuss progress in achieving approved Groundwater Task Force goals.

A. Goal: Groundwater Task Force will establish a website that will provide a “one stop” source for updates on Kewaunee County’s ground and surface waters. New site will reside on Kewaunee County’s website (kewauneeeco.org and as appropriate, UW Extension website. **Champions: Cindy Kinnard and Aerica Bjurstrom.**

- a) Update on web site development by Aerica Bjurstrom and Cindy Kinnard. Press Release #1 and #2 are posted. Posting of well test results? Post Press Release #3 Interview with Supervisor Chuck Wagner. Post Press Release #4 Algoma Clean Water Kiosk Instructions.

B. Goal: Groundwater Task Force will publish no less than one press release per month to update Kewaunee County residents on the activities of the Task Force along with news about other County, State, and Federal entities working to improve groundwater and surface water conditions in Kewaunee County. **Champion: Lee Luft**

- a) Review of Press Release Topics Listing as presented at the January 6th GWTF Meeting.

7) Public Comments (3 minutes per person – 20 minutes total)

8) Other matters to discuss

- a) Update from Ron Heuer on Public Service Commission grant. Timing and next steps.

9) Set next meeting date

10) Adjournment